retrenched workers in units closed under Industrial Disputes Act is not maintained by the Government.

**Privatisation of Drinking Water and Sewer Arrangement**

*256. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise drinking water and sewer arrangement in the urban area as well, after initiating the process of privatisation in the field of power and communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Constitution has extended the responsibility of providing drinking water supply and sewage disposal in urban areas to State Government under Article 246 (3) in VII Schedule (list II) entry nos. 5 & 6. It is for the State Government to take a decision regarding privatisation of these services. The Ministry of Urban Development is rendering all possible assistance to the State Governments to initiate the process of privatisation through policy formulation and exposure to international experience in this area. To sensitise the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies, the Ministry organised a seminar on Private Sector Participation in water supply and sanitation on 7-8 February, 2000. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Urban Development is also stressing the State Governments to enhance the capacity of Urban Local Bodies by way of effective financial management and training inputs of various categories of staff to effectively deal with responsibilities of water supply and sanitation conservancy.

(c) No definite time frame is fixed for this purpose.

**Shelter to Animals**

*257. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals have been received for shelter to Animals Scheme during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;